

Appln No. 09/975,532

Amdt date April 13, 2005

Reply to Office action of December 14, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for printing postage, comprising:

receiving a label stock comprising a set of labels each having a pre-printed serial number, [the] each pre-printed serial number [including a] related to a single master serial number that identifies the label stock;

receiving a postage request;

generating an indicium in accordance with the master serial number, pre-printed serial number, and the postage request, the indicium including an indicator verifying a match with the pre-printed serial number; and

printing the postage using the indicium and the label stock.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the label stock further includes anti-fraud features.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the anti-fraud features include micro-printing on the label stock.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the anti-fraud features include a watermark on the label stock.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the anti-fraud features include cutting the label stock using a special die.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the anti-fraud features include printing using color changing ink on the label stock.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the postage request includes a postage amount.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the postage request includes a postage class.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the postage request includes a Licensing Postage Office.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising including the pre-printed serial number in the indicium.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the master serial number is linked to a [specific] first postage printing device and generating the indicium further includes ensuring the master serial number is used with the [specific] first postage printing device.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising tracking the use of a label stock serial number.

13. (Currently amended) A data processing system adapted to print postage, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions, the program instructions including:

receiving a label stock pre-printed serial number, the pre-printed serial number including a master serial number;

receiving a postage request;

generating an indicium in accordance with the master serial number, pre-printed serial number, and the postage request, the indicium providing a visual verification of a match with the pre-printed serial number; and

printing the postage using the indicium and the label stock.

14. (Original) The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the label stock further includes anti-fraud features.

15. (Original) The data processing system of claim 14 wherein the anti-fraud features include micro-printing on the label stock.

16. (Original) The data processing system of claim 14 wherein the anti-fraud features include a watermark on the label stock.

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17. (Original) The data processing system of claim 14 wherein the anti-fraud features include cutting the label stock using a special die.

18. (Original) The data processing system of claim 14 wherein the anti-fraud features include printing using color changing ink on the label stock.

19. (Original) The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the postage request includes a postage amount.

20. (Original) The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the postage request includes a postage class.

21. (Original) The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the postage request includes a Licensing Postage Office.

22. (Currently amended) The data processing system of claim 13, the program instructions for generating the indicium further including [including] the pre-printed serial number in the indicium.

23. (Original) The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the program instructions further include linking the master serial number to a specific postage printing device and the program instructions for generating the indicium further include ensuring the master serial number is used with the specific postage printing device.

24. (Original) The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the program instructions further include tracking the use of a label stock serial number.

25. (Currently amended) A method for printing postage, comprising:

receiving a label stock with at least one pre-printed serial number on a label, the pre-printed serial number [including] related to a master serial number of the label stock, the label stock including printing in color-changing ink, labels cut with a special die, micro-printing, and a watermark;

receiving a postage request;

generating an indicium in accordance with the master serial number, pre-printed serial number, and the postage request, the indicium providing means for verifying the validity of the postage; and

printing the postage using the indicium and the label stock.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising tracking the use of a label stock serial number.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the master serial number is linked to a specific postage printing device and generating the indicium further includes ensuring the master serial number is used with the specific postage printing device.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the postage request includes a postage amount.

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29. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the postage request includes a postage class.

30. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the postage request includes a Licensing Postage Office.

31. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising including the pre-printed serial number in the indicium.

32. (Currently amended) A method for printing postage, comprising:

receiving a label stock comprising a first label with a pre-printed serial number;

receiving a postage request;

generating an indicium in accordance with the pre-printed serial number and the postage request;

printing the postage using the indicium and the first label [stock], the indicium providing means for verifying the validity of the postage; [and]

tracking the use of the pre-printed serial number[.]; and
rejecting a subsequent postage request for a second label with the pre-printed serial number.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein the postage request includes a postage amount.

34. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein the postage request includes a postage class.

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35. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein the postage request includes a Licensing Postage Office.

36. (Original) The method of claim 32 further comprising including the pre-printed serial number in the indicium.

37. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein the label stock further includes anti-fraud features.

38. (Currently amended) A method for printing postage, comprising:

receiving a label stock with a pre-printed serial number, the label stock cut with a special die and including printing in color-changing ink;

receiving a postage request;

generating an indicium in accordance with the pre-printed serial number and the postage request, the indicium providing means for verifying the validity of the postage by a known correspondence to the pre-printed serial number; and

printing the postage using the indicium and the label stock.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising tracking the use of the pre-printed serial number.

40. (Currently amended) A method for printing postage, comprising:

receiving a pre-printed serial number for label stock cut with a special die;

receiving a postage request;

generating an indicium in accordance with the pre-printed serial number and the postage request;

printing the postage using the indicium and the label stock; [and]

tracking the use of the pre-printed serial number[.]; and blocking subsequent use of the pre-printed serial number.

41. (Currently amended) A method for generating a display in a user interface for printing postage, comprising:

receiving a label stock type for a label stock, the label stock including a plurality of sequenced labels;

receiving a label starting sequence number for a label from the plurality of sequenced labels; and

generating a label stock display using the label stock type and label starting sequence number, the label stock display providing means for verifying the validity of the postage in relation to the label starting sequence number.

42. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the indicator is a serial number matching the pre-printed serial number.

43. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

rejecting a request to print an indicium related to the master serial number on a second postage printing device.

44. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising checking if the master serial number is an active master serial number.